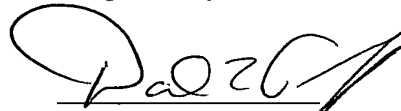


REMARKS

Entrance of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The pages captioned "MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS" include the marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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G:\Feb02-SMM\PK-US015147 Prelim Amendment

***MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS***

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 3, the paragraph beginning on line 14 has been changed as follows:

- - In view of the above, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that there exists a need for improved metallic sealing rings with optimized sealing areas that can be used at high temperatures and pressures while providing high reliability and pressure tight sealing. This invention addresses this need in the art as well as other needs, which will become apparent to those skilled in the art once given this disclosure. - -